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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

PCT/FR01/01957

Christophe MATHIEU, et al.

Attorney Docket Q68461

Appln. No.: Not Assigned

Confirmation No.: Not Assigned

Group Art Unit: Not Assigned

Filed: February 20, 2002

Examiner: Not Assigned

For: A SUBMARINE FIBER OPTIC TRANSMISSION NETWORK

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please enter the following amended claims:

4. (Amended)The network of claim 2, characterized in that the multiplexer (30) is a synchronous digital hierarchy add and drop multiplexer.

5. (Amended)The network of claim 2, characterized in that it has, at one end of the single cable, a second multiplexer (42) connected by one fiber to another terminal

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equipment (19) of a cable section (10), by another fiber to a terminal equipment (21) of the other cable section (12) and by a further fiber to a tributary of said multiplexer (30).

7. (Amended)The network of claim 5, characterized in that it has, at one end of the single cable, a third multiplexer (46) connected by one fiber to another terminal equipment (19) of a cable section (10), by another fiber to a terminal equipment (21) of the other cable section (12) and by a further fiber to another tributary of said multiplexer (30).

9. (Amended) A transmission method for use in a network according to claim 2, including, at one end of the single cable:

- sending fast recovery traffic from a tributary of the multiplexer (30) through a terminal equipment (18), a cable section (10) and a branching unit (6) to the single cable, and

- receiving fast recovery traffic on a tributary of the multiplexer (30) from a single cable through the branching unit (6), the other cable section (12) and a terminal equipment (21).

11. (Amended)The method of claim 9, including, in the event of an incident, at one end of the single cable:

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- sending fast recovery traffic from a tributary of the multiplexer (30) through a terminal equipment (18), a cable section (10) and a branching unit (6) to the single cable, and

- receiving fast recovery traffic on a tributary of the multiplexer (30) from a single cable through the branching unit (6), the same cable section (12) and the same terminal equipment (21).

12. (Amended)The method of claim 9, including, in the event of an incident, at one end of the single cable:

- sending slow recovery traffic from a tributary of the second multiplexer (42) through a terminal equipment (20), a cable section (12) and a branching unit (6) to the single cable, and

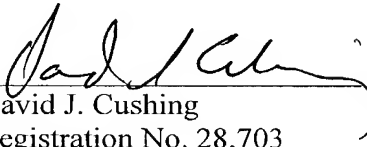
- receiving slow recovery traffic on a tributary of the third multiplexer (46) from the single cable through the branching unit (6), the same cable section (12) and the same terminal equipment (20).

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REMARKS

Entry and consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


David J. Cushing
Registration No. 28,703

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037-3213
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

Date: February 20, 2002

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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

4. ~~(Amended)~~The network of claim 2 ~~or claim 3~~, characterized in that the multiplexer (30) is a synchronous digital hierarchy add and drop multiplexer.

5. ~~(Amended)~~The network of claim 2 ~~or claim 3~~, characterized in that it has, at one end of the single cable, a second multiplexer (42) connected by one fiber to another terminal equipment (19) of a cable section (10), by another fiber to a terminal equipment (21) of the other cable section (12) and by a further fiber to a tributary of said multiplexer (30).

7. ~~(Amended)~~The network of claim 5 ~~or claim 6~~, characterized in that it has, at one end of the single cable, a third multiplexer (46) connected by one fiber to another terminal equipment (19) of a cable section (10), by another fiber to a terminal equipment (21) of the other cable section (12) and by a further fiber to another tributary of said multiplexer (30).

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9. (Amended) A transmission method for use in a network according to ~~any of claims 2 to 8~~claim 2, including, at one end of the single cable:

- sending fast recovery traffic from a tributary of the multiplexer (30) through a terminal equipment (18), a cable section (10) and a branching unit (6) to the single cable, and
- receiving fast recovery traffic on a tributary of the multiplexer (30) from a single cable through the branching unit (6), the other cable section (12) and a terminal equipment (21).

11. (Amended) The method of claim 9 ~~or claim 10~~, including, in the event of an incident, at one end of the single cable:

- sending fast recovery traffic from a tributary of the multiplexer (30) through a terminal equipment (18), a cable section (10) and a branching unit (6) to the single cable, and
- receiving fast recovery traffic on a tributary of the multiplexer (30) from a single cable through the branching unit (6), the same cable section (12) and the same terminal equipment (21).

12. (Amended) The method of claim 9 ~~or claim 10~~, including, in the event of an incident, at one end of the single cable:

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- sending slow recovery traffic from a tributary of the second multiplexer (42) through a terminal equipment (20), a cable section (12) and a branching unit (6) to the single cable, and

- receiving slow recovery traffic on a tributary of the third multiplexer (46) from the single cable through the branching unit (6), the same cable section (12) and the same terminal equipment (20).